

Notice: New Law

Senate Bill No. 564, Chapter 481, Statutes of 2002

On Sept. 11, 2002, Governor Davis signed Senate Bill 564 which was authored by state Sen. Jackie Speier. This bill amends sections 2914 and 2915 of the California Business and Professions Code.

This bill will, in part, increase the number of contact hours of coursework or training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies required to become licensed as a psychologist. It would also require continuing education in this area for renewal applicants. Currently, this course of training is not required for renewal applicants.

This bill will require any applicant for licensure as a psychologist who began graduate study on or after Jan. 1, 2004 to complete a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies. An exemption may be requested by the applicant if they intend to practice in an area that does not include the direct provision of mental health services.

Additionally, on Jan. 1, 2004, this new law will require all licensed psychologists who began graduate study prior to Jan. 1, 2004 to take a course in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection and intervention strategies for his or her first renewal after the operative date of this new law. The statute does not specify the number of hours required, however, section 1397.60(c) of the Board's regulations defines a course as an approved systematic learning experience of at least one hour in length. Although one hour is the minimum for any course, to fulfill this particular requirement, the course must be of sufficient length to cover spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics.

Equivalent courses in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies taken prior to the operative date of this new law or proof of equivalent teaching or practice experience may be submitted to the board and, at its discretion, may be accepted in satisfaction of this requirement.

The licensee's license cannot be renewed until proof, satisfactory to the board, of completion of the course.

The language of the new law can be accessed at www.leginfo.ca.gov.